

HAZARDS OF BUTTERFLY COLLECTING, COLOMBO, SRI LANKA. — I recently had a morning free in Colombo, Sri Lanka, which I wished to use for a quick round of collecting in the entomologically well-known Victoria Park. This is a rambling, untidy place which manages to hang on to its name despite official efforts to replace it with a blander but less colonial one. Although you may reach it from anywhere in Colombo by taxi for a few rupees it is a good habitat. On a fine day thirty or forty species may be chalked up in an afternoon, including swallowtails such as the giant *Papilio polymnestor* and the polymorphic mimic *Chilasa clytia*. Well over half the total Sri Lankan butterfly fauna of 140 species or so may be captured here over time. But Victoria Park has a rather unique hazard for entomologists, or at least for the more sensitive and discreet members of the breed.

A high level of education and relatively poor social conditions coupled with high aspirations have combined to push up the average age at marriage to 27 for men and 25 for women, this in what is a somewhat puritanical society. Victoria Park is one of the safety valves; every nook and cranny appears to be filled with young lovers in various stages of sartorial disarray ranging from the merely touching, via the risqué, to the (at least in Sri Lankan terms) scandalous. For instance, I am not certain that whether the girl with the ample and amply exposed breasts near the gardeners depot really accepted as a valid excuse my claim that this seemed a likely spot for some of the rarer crepuscular skippers. For my part, I certainly still fail to understand what she saw in the distinctly unprepossessing man. Queen Victoria would not have been amused at what goes on in her park!

However, puritanism will be unable to withstand average ages of marriage in the mid-twenties, public morals will relax, secrecy will be less of a premium, and we may safely predict that in twenty years time the main hazard to the entomologist will once again be dogs and their detritus. — TORBEN B. LARSEN, 23 Jackson's Lane, London, N.6.

AN ARTIFICIAL COLONY OF THE SCARLET TIGER, PANAXIA DOMINULA L. F. BIMACULA COCKAYNE. — *Panaxia dominula* occurs very locally in many places throughout southern England, but only at Cothill, Berkshire did f. *bimacula* and its heterozygote *medionigra* originally occur. F. *bimacula* is an incomplete dominant. Since then it has been introduced into many colonies and I must admit by myself as well as others. We have attempted to track the frequency changes that have occurred subsequently, and to find out the advantages and disadvantages of the *medionigra-bimacula* gene.

About 25 years ago we founded a colony of pure red *bimacula* at Steeple Barton in the Vicarage garden and this has since flourished.

In 1962 the Revd. Anthony Harbottle obtained three specimens of yellow *dominula* f. *lutea* from a colony I had discovered near Boscastle at an earlier date. He obtained pairings between f. *lutea* ♂♂ and red *medionigra* ♀♀ which I had

sent him. Subsequently I succeeded in getting pure strains of yellow f. *bimacula*, and since 1965 we have bred these strains in large numbers, and we now have (amongst other places) a colony of both red and yellow *bimacula* in the Vicarage garden which is thriving. In July each year we have large numbers of both yellow and red *bimacula* flying round the garden, along the hedgerows and over a nearby marsh. I had planted here, 25 years ago a large number of comfrey plants throughout the area. I am putting this on record because I am anticipating that we shall have to vacate the Vicarage in the next 2/3 years and I am hoping that the Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Naturalists Trust (who have been notified) will keep their eye on conserving this rather interesting experiment. The father of the present owner, Mr. Robin Fleming had previously agreed to have a liaison with B.B.O.N.T.

Amongst many interesting observations which we have noted in this colony of pure f. *bimacula* is one of considerable importance. Each year, we have taken some numbers of an entirely new form of *dominula* (which I have recorded as f. *pseudojuncta* nov. ab.): nor have I been able to elucidate the origins of this form because I have never been able to breed out any offspring of this form from it (including a healthy brood from *pseudojuncta* x *pseudojuncta* which I bred in 1973). All were f. *bimacula*. This form is so very different from f. *bimacula* and f. *typica* that it is worthy of study. I have figured it in my book 'The Evolution of Melanism' and have suggested that it may be the result of some as yet undiscovered environmental condition imposed on a particular genetic background.

It is particularly requested that individual collectors do not attempt to collect specimens from this colony without having previously contacted Mr. Robin Fleming, of Steeple Barton Abbey, Oxfordshire. — H. B. D. KETTLEWELL (deceased).

PANAGAEUS BIPUSTULATUS FABRICIUS (COL.: CARABIDAE) IN SUFFOLK. — As I am only aware of three published records of the occurrence in Suffolk of this local and usually rare species, it would seem of interest to summarise details of these and other records which I possess.

The insect was first noted by Claude Morley (1899, *Coleoptera of Suffolk*, p.4) from Tattingstone, near Ipswich, on the authority of Harwood. I have been unable to discover any further published records of the beetle until it was reported from grass tufts in the Breck at Tuddenham on 14.iv.63 (MacNulty, 1963, *Proc. S. Lond. ent. nat. Hist. Soc.* p.6). The following year — 5.iv.64 — the late A. E. Gardner recorded it in the same journal from the same locality and microhabitat together with *Platyderus ruficollis* Marsh and *Anisodactylus nemorivagus* Duftschmid ab. *atricornis* Stephens (1964, *loc. cit. supra*, p.4). The *Anisodactylus* is an addition to the county list — vide Nash, 1978, *Suffolk Nat. Hist.* 17: 397.

Examination of Morley's annotated copy of his 1899 work held at the Ipswich Museum has yielded the following record